

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS



February 28, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 8636-review.doc).

**Title:** Autoimmune gastritis presenting as iron deficiency anemia in childhood

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**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 8636

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

(Reviewer 02514886) - Text was revised and language editing was performed.

(Reviewer 01649894) - The authors included new data concerning immunostaining (antibody markers) for T cells, B cells and macrophages, as suggested by the reviewer, in order to better document the characteristics of the inflammatory infiltrate (see line page).

Immunostaining for parietal cells was not performed, because the specific antibody was not available at our institution (neither from a reference manufacturer); furthermore, all of our patients had positive serum parietal cell antibody associated with histological loss of parietal cell, thus fulfilling standard requirements for autoimmune gastritis criteria. Periodic acid- Schiff/ Alcian blue staining at pH=2.5 was performed to confirm the presence of intestinal and pseudopyloric metaplasia (antral-like mucosa obtained from anatomically collected corpus mucosa).

Data regarding autoimmune gastritis prevalence was updated according to the reference "Zhang Y, Weck MN, Schottker B, Rothenbacher D, Brenner H. Gastric parietal cell antibodies, helicobacter pylori infection, and chronic atrophic gastritis: Evidence from a large population-based study in Germany. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2013;22:821-826" (see line page).

(Reviewer 01992623) - A comment regarding the molecular mechanism of autoimmune gastritis was also included in the Discussion Section (see line page)

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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